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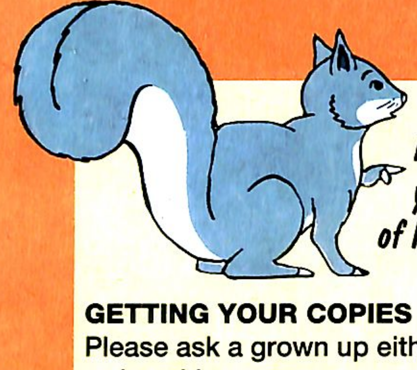

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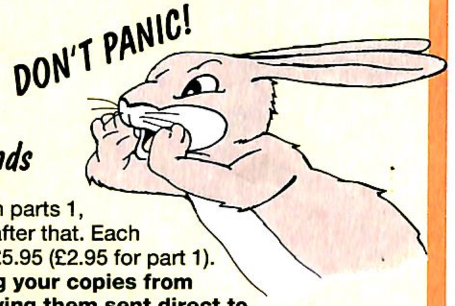

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CONTENTS

ISSUE 68

TALES OF FARTHING WOOD
Sad news

ALL ABOUT
Bloodsuckers

HOW TO DRAW
Terrier

SECRET WORLD OF
Evolution

DISCOVERING NATURE
Talking teeth

FASCINATING FACTS
Leapers

PUZZLE IT OUT
Camera shy

COLOUR IT IN
Fright night!

FREE POSTCARDS IN ISSUE 69

ALSO

IN ISSUE 69

TALES OF FARTHING WOOD
Bold finds romance in the town, but he doesn't want to let Crow down.

ALL ABOUT...Sparrowhawks
They like to eat finches, blue tits, thrushes, starlings – and sparrows, of course.

FASCINATING FACTS
Clever animals talk to each other with their twitching tails.

DISCOVERING NATURE
Rock cakes are tasty, and they won't break your teeth.

GALLERY
Play the Get to White Deer Park board game, invented by a reader.

SECRET WORLD OF...
A shingle beach
These pebbly beaches are not comfy for sunbathing, but wildlife thrives on them.

PUZZLE IT OUT
We've got plenty of games for you to play at the seaside.

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Key: AA = All About ...; CII = Colour it in; DN = Discovering Nature; FF = Fascinating Facts; HTD = How to Draw; PIO = Puzzle it out; SW = Secret World.

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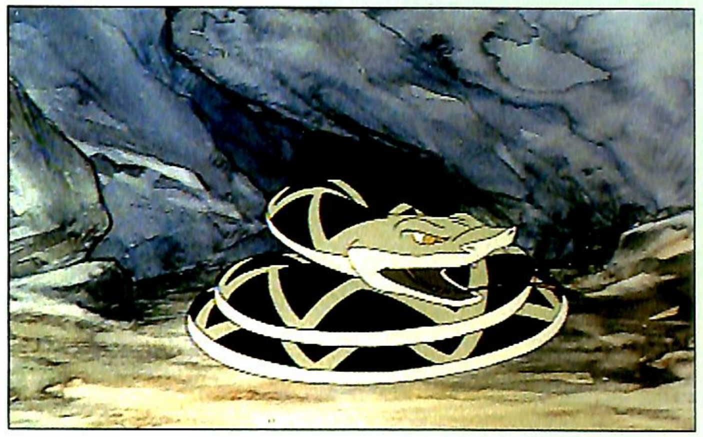
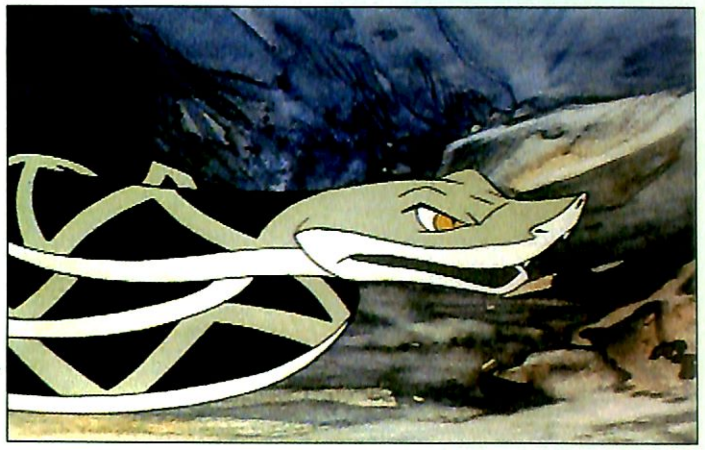
56: Sad news

Having had part of her tail bitten off by Scarface, Adder was still hiding from her enemy.



"Ssstill there, Ssscarface?" enquired Adder. "Still here, Adder," answered Scarface. "You're wassssting your time," she chortled. "Sssoon you'll be wasting away!"

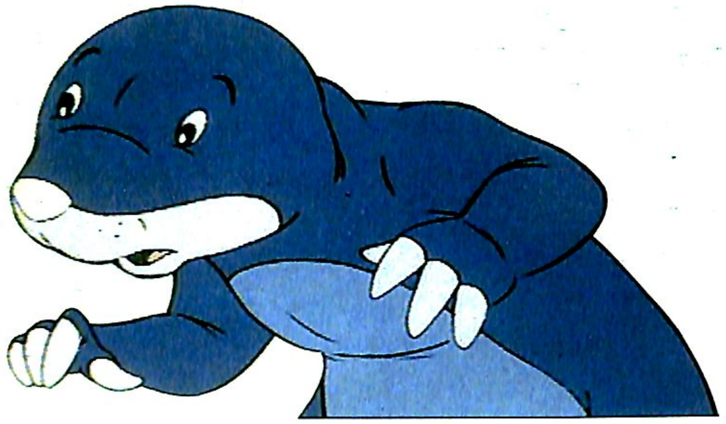
"Laughing! When I've just bitten your tail off?" replied Scarface. "Only the famous Farthing Wood Adder would do that!" "You're the snake that killed my son."



"C'mon admit it!" Scarface growled. "I'll get you! Just see if I don't." And with that Scarface took off. "Not if I get you firssst!" hissed Adder to herself.

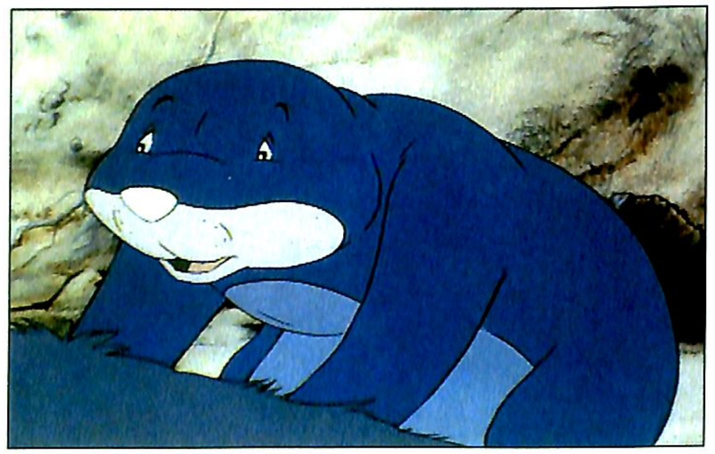
Meanwhile, Mossy was looking for Badger. He found him asleep in his sett. He climbed up and shouted in Badger's ear, "Badger! Badger! Are you alright?"

Badger opened his eyes slowly. "Moley, old friend! Time to get up is it? Time to go out and hunt in Farthing Wood?"



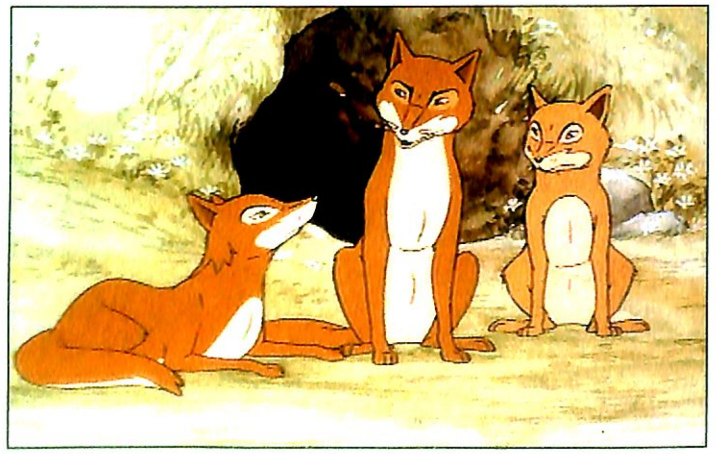
“Badger, you’re dreaming,” answered Mossy. “You’re not in Farthing Wood anymore. You came on that long journey, remember?”

But Badger was in another world, “Playing through the night ... until the first rays of sun filter through the trees ... the home where generations of Farthing Badgers have lived ...”



A tear fell down Mossy’s cheek “Badger, it’s your old friend Mole,” he sobbed. “Mole?” said Badger, closing his eyes again. “I don’t know any moles, only Badgers ...”

Mossy pleaded with Badger not to fall asleep. But it was too late. Mossy rushed off to find Fox.



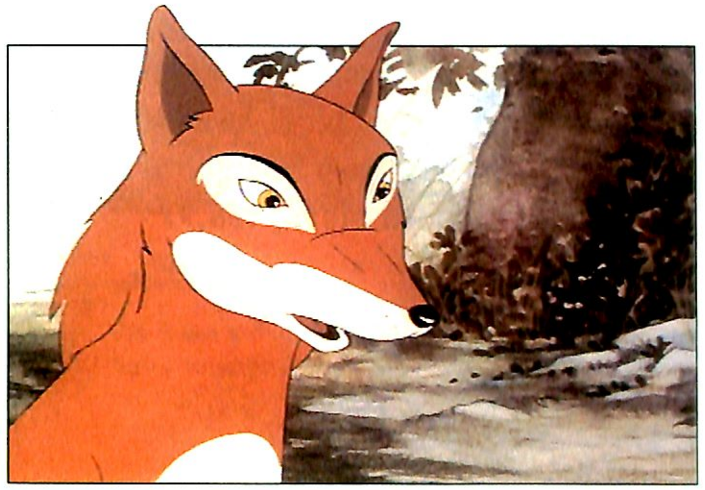
Fox was talking to Vixen outside their earth. “I haven’t seen Badger in a long time, I hope he’s alright.” “He’s probably still upset from when you called him a crusty old fool,” replied Vixen.

Suddenly, Mossy popped out of the ground. “It’s Badger!” he sobbed, “I think he’s ... dying.” They all ran to Badger’s sett.

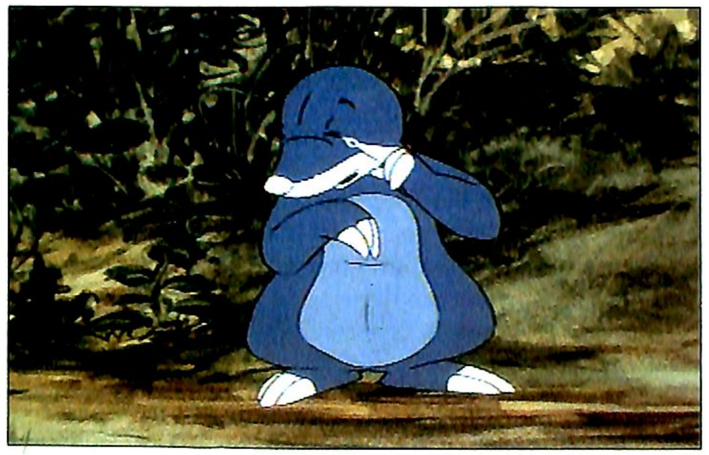
Badger greeted his visitors, “Ah! Fox! Come to persuade me to leave Farthing Wood? I’m afraid I could never leave my old home ... my birthplace!” “I’m sorry I was unkind to you,” said Fox.

“A fox? Worried about kindness,” laughed Badger, “I must be in heaven.” Badger closed his eyes for the last time. “He’s gone,” cried Vixen, “he really has gone.”

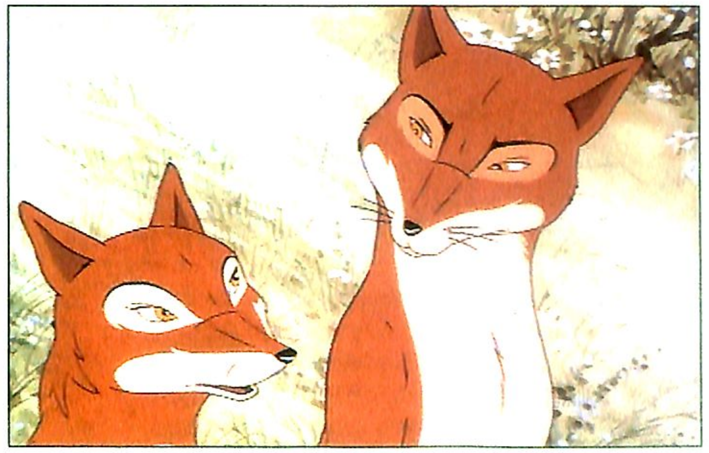
All the animals gathered outside Badger’s sett to mourn their loss. Hare and Rabbit pushed a boulder over the entrance. They all stood silent for a moment.



“We must all learn from that wise old Badger, how to grow old gracefully,” said Vixen.



Mossy tried to put on a brave face. “At least I don’t have to pretend to be my father any more,” he cried, wiping away a tear.



“Yes ... poor Mossy,” said Vixen. “It is difficult when the young have to live in their father’s shadow ... isn’t it?” said Vixen, turning to look at Fox.

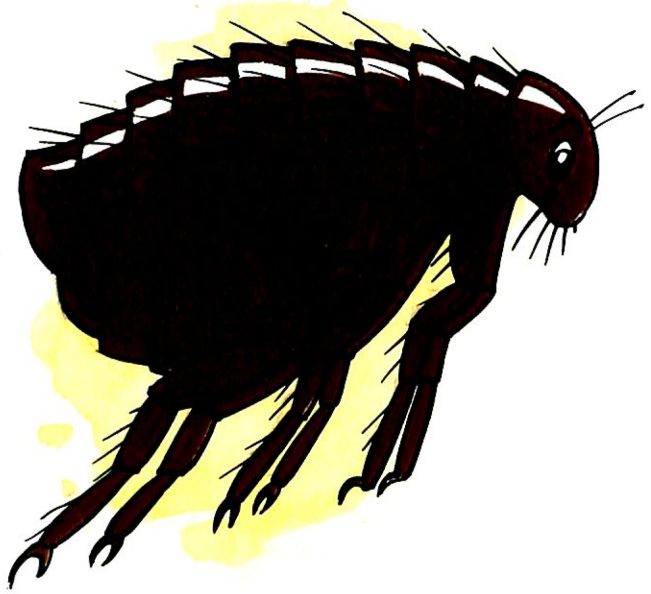
Next week: Feeling lonely.

All About...

Bloodsuckers

"Hi! I'm Flea, one of Farthing Wood's expert bloodsuckers. I happen to live on cats, like Tom, but other members of my family live on different mammals (such as rats, rabbits, hares, hedgehogs, dogs and humans) and birds.

There are 47 different kinds of flea in the British Isles. Most of us prefer to feed on just one animal but from time to time we hop on to another. You might know this if you own a cat because we Cat fleas do sometimes help ourselves to a meal of human blood, too."



IT'S Amazing!

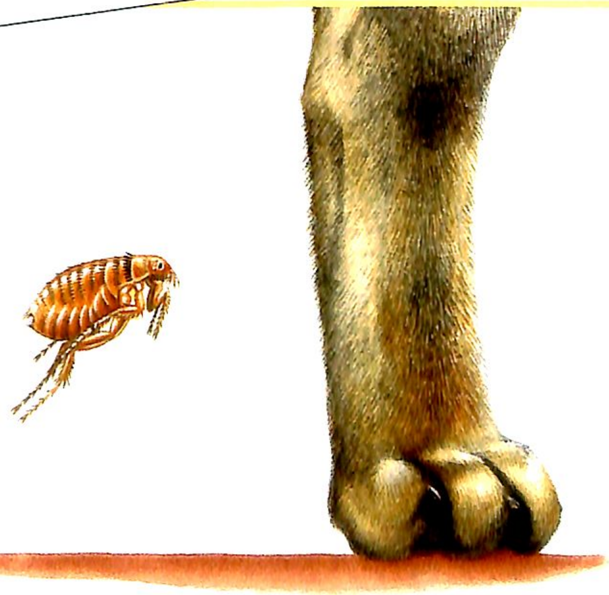
GIANT VISITOR

Most fleas are tiny, only growing to 1 or 2mm long. However, there is one member of the family that can reach 6mm. You would imagine that this flea would live on a large mammal, like Fox or Badger. In fact, it sticks to tiny creatures like shrews, which are only about 60mm long.

Like other bloodsucking insects, fleas can pass on diseases. In the past, the Oriental rat flea caused the bubonic plague to spread from rats to humans and millions of people died. More recently, Rabbit fleas passed on the deadly disease myxomatosis from one rabbit to another, wiping out thousands of them.

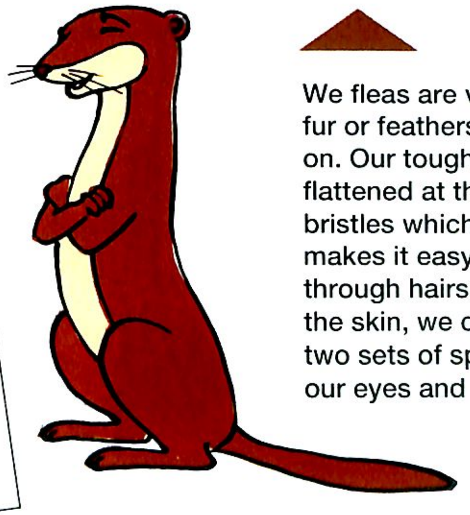
HIGH JUMP

We fleas do not have wings, like many other insects do, but that doesn't stop us getting around. When we need to get out of the way of a scratching paw or we want to find a new source of food we leap, using our specially developed hind legs. We do not have good eyesight but we can sense when a warm-blooded creature is approaching.



Weasel's Easel

Fleas lay eggs in animals' homes (such as dens or nests) and in carpets in human homes. The eggs develop into tiny, hairy larvae which feed on bits of dead skin, dust and the droppings of the adults. They gradually change into adults and wait, sometimes for months, until a cat or human walks by.



We fleas are very well built for living in the fur or feathers of the creatures we feed on. Our tough, leathery bodies, which are flattened at the sides, are covered with bristles which point backwards. This makes it easy for us to burrow forwards through hairs or feathers. Once we reach the skin, we cling on with our bristles and two sets of spiny combs which protect our eyes and neck.

I bet you don't know any human being who can jump as high as the dome of St Paul's Cathedral in London. Well, that's the human equivalent of the leap we Cat fleas can make when we jump off the ground on to a passing cat. We don't just use our leg muscles to make this huge leap. We have a pad of special rubber-like material, called resilin, at the top of our hind legs. By bending our legs and pressing down on the pad, we can build up energy in the pad. As we start to jump, this extra energy is released, and so we can go much further than most other jumping insects.

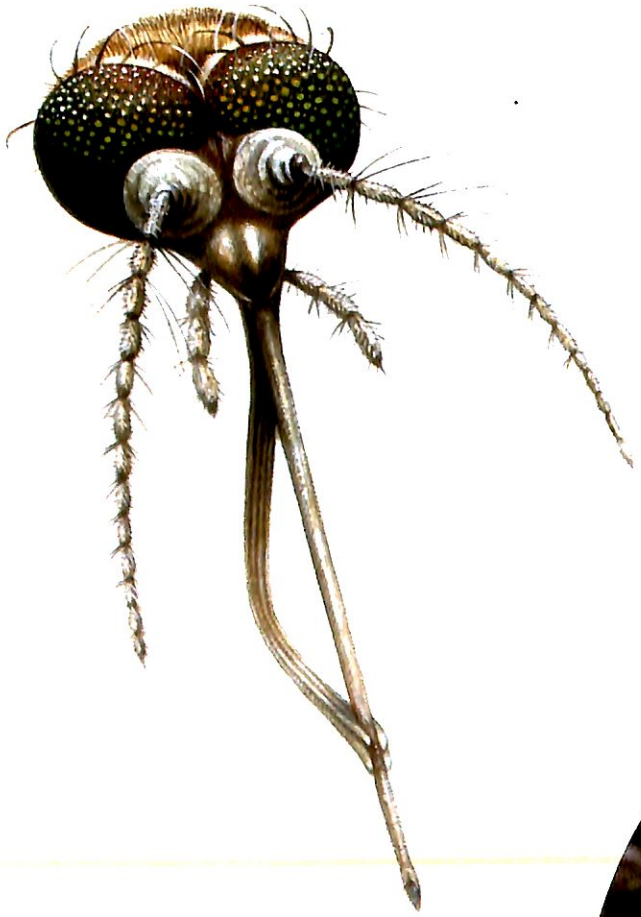
Sucking blood

“Both the male and female adult flea feed on blood but with mosquitos and ticks it is only the female who is a bloodsucker.”

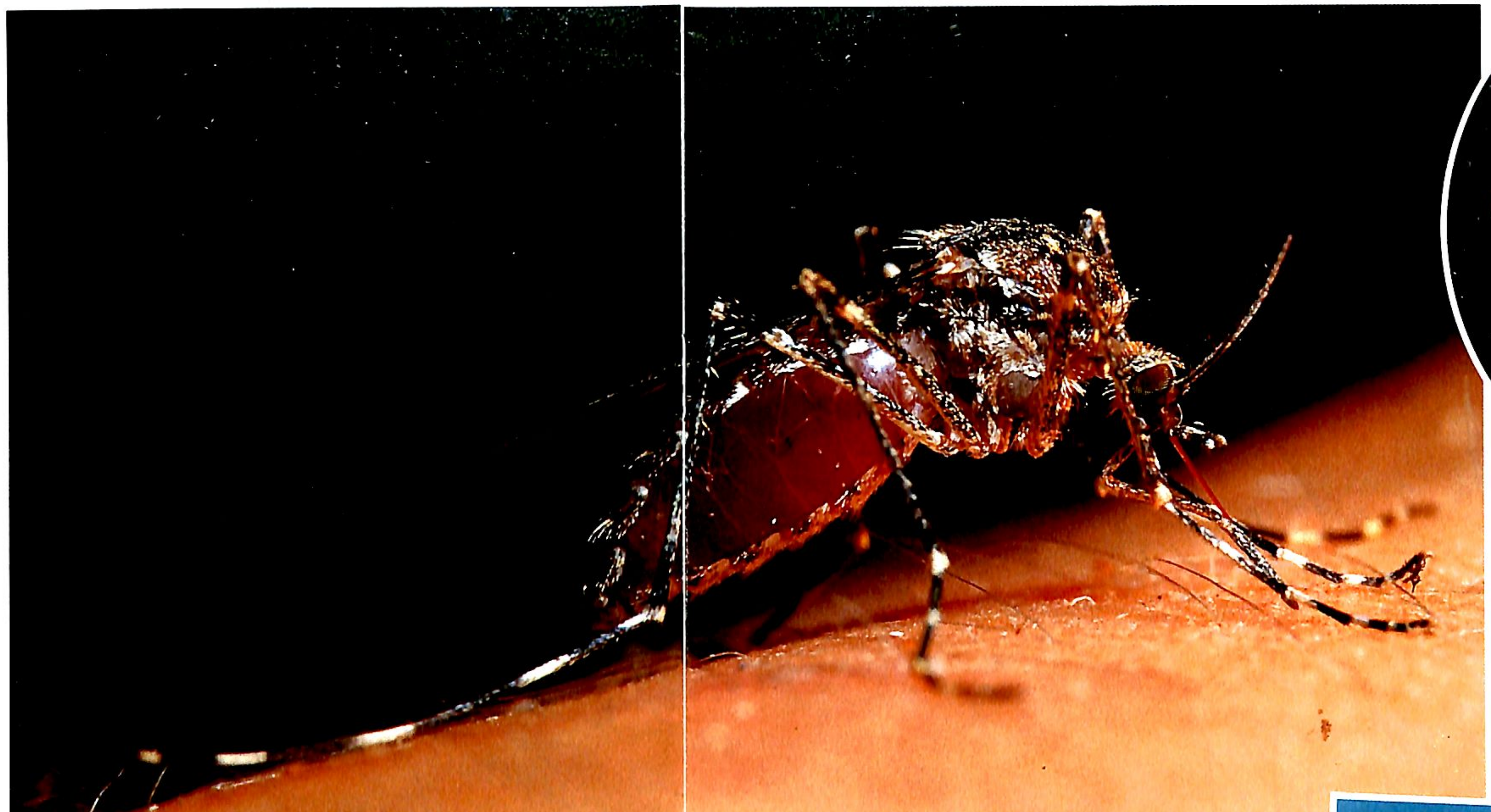
INSECT SYRINGE

The female mosquito’s proboscis is a bit like a syringe. It has six different sections to help the mosquito feed efficiently. She pierces the skin with the sharp point, pumps down a liquid to keep the blood flowing and saliva to start digesting the blood as it is sucked up.

Some people react very badly to these injections of mosquito saliva and their bites become red and painful. In many parts of the world, people die of diseases such as malaria or yellow fever because they have been bitten by mosquitos that are carrying these germs.



Ticks belong to the same family as spiders. The adult female can wait for as long as seven years for a meal, such as a sheep, to pass by. Then she will suck its blood, non-stop for up to nine days, until she is bloated. She drops off into the grass and lays several thousand eggs. These develop into tiny, six-legged larvae which can survive for up to 15 months without a feed of blood. They then need another meal before they can moult to become an adult.



Mosquitos have long bodies covered with scales, long delicate legs, a single pair of wings and very efficient mouthparts. The male sucks nectar from flowers, using its long proboscis. It has feathery antennae which help it to pick up certain signals, especially the sound of the female’s beating wings. The female’s antennae are slightly hairy.

Another much rarer British bloodsucker is the Medicinal leech. It lives in fresh water where mammals such as horses and cattle drink. It bites into its prey with strong teeth and can suck up as much as five times its own weight in blood at one time. People used to use these leeches to try to cure various illnesses.

IT'S Amazing!

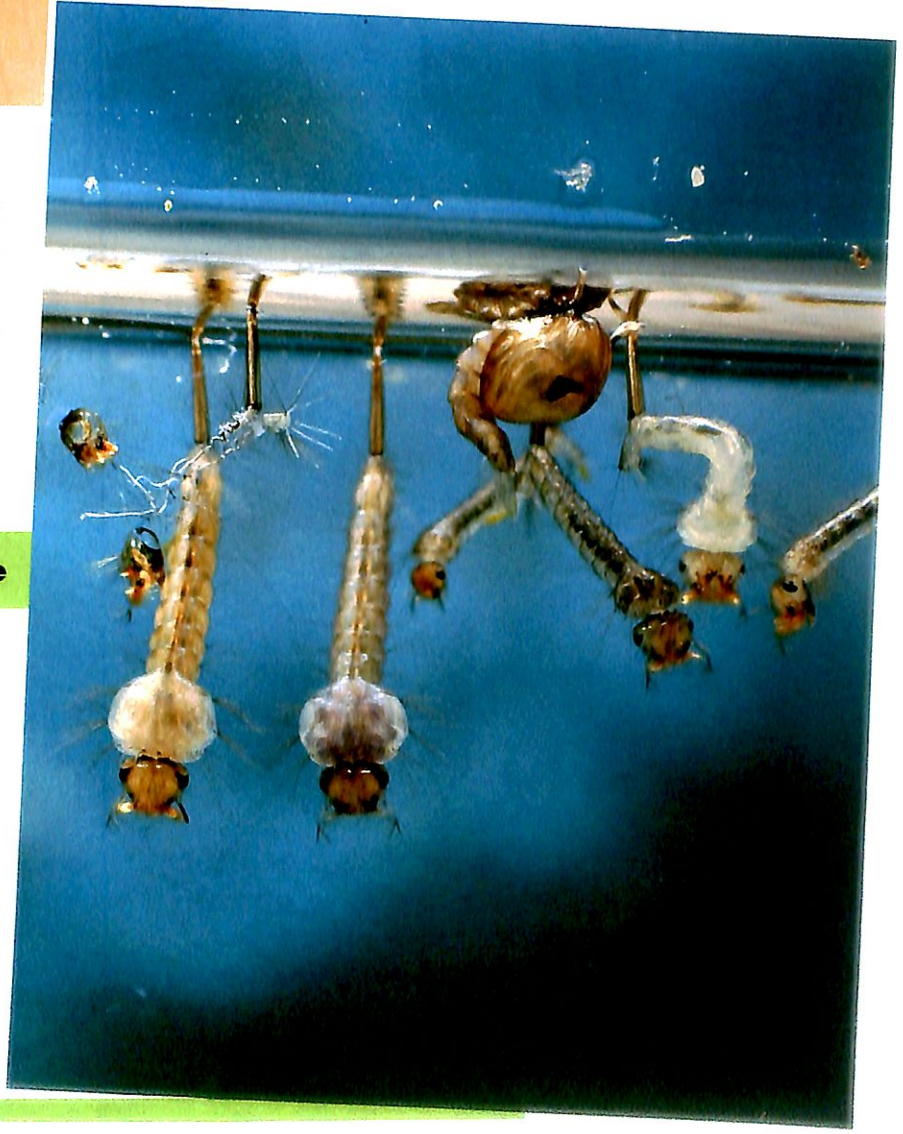
Some kinds of mosquito beat their wings more than 1000 times per second.

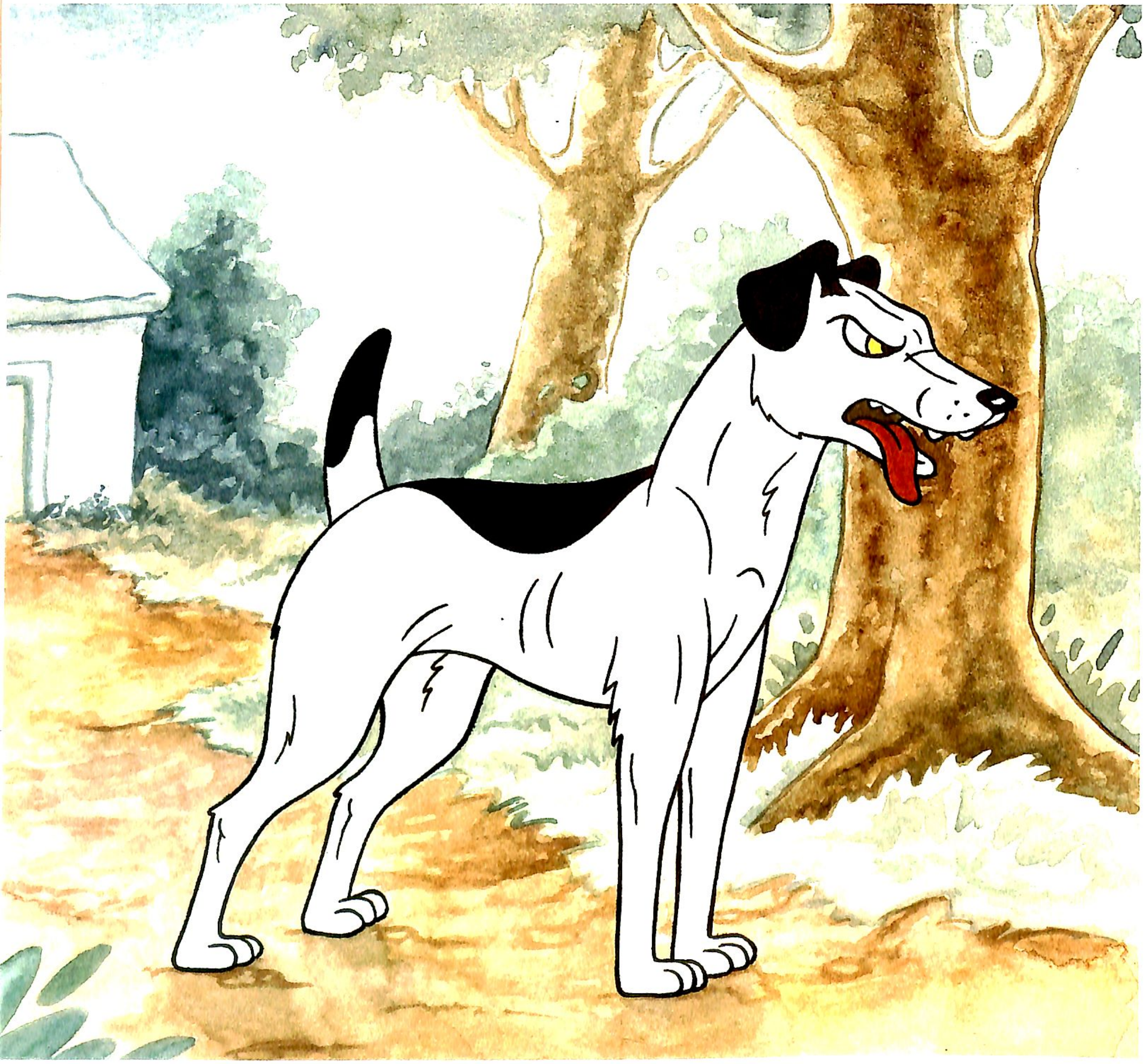
Be a Nature Detective

WATER BABIES

Mosquitos lay their eggs in water but it doesn’t need to be a big area. They can lay them in any container, like a bucket or water butt.

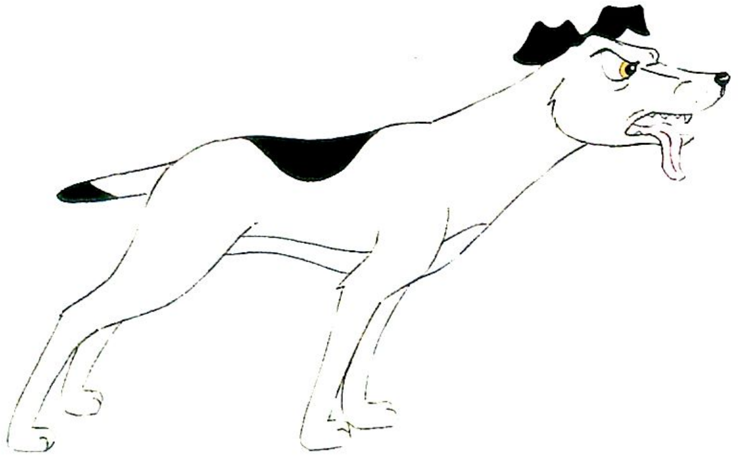
Check small patches of water near you in the summer and see if you can spot any long, thin creatures wriggling about near the surface. These are probably the larvae of the mosquito known as the Common gnat. They hang with their heads down and the tip of their abdomen sticking out of the water. They breathe through a tube at the tip and feed by trapping food with bristles around their mouths.





Terrier

Terriers are fierce dogs. Farmers often keep them to kill rats ... and to see off foxes. Bold had a lucky escape from this one when he was dug out of his earth. Luckily, Bold looked such a sorry sight that the farmer and his dog decided to leave him alone.

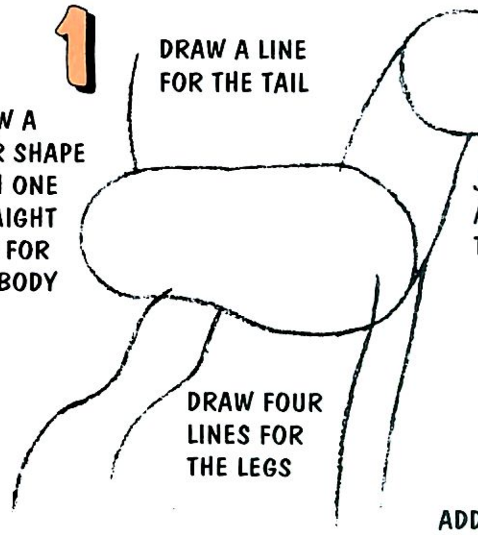


Drawing Terrier

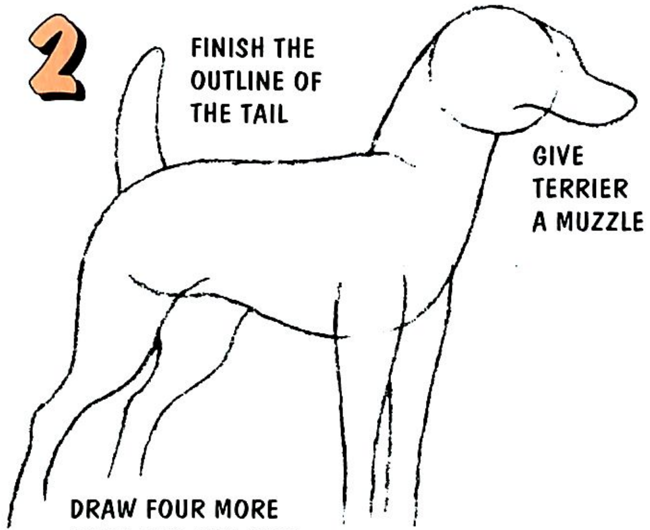
BEFORE YOU START... PRACTISE DRAWING THESE SHAPES

LONG AND SHORT CURVES

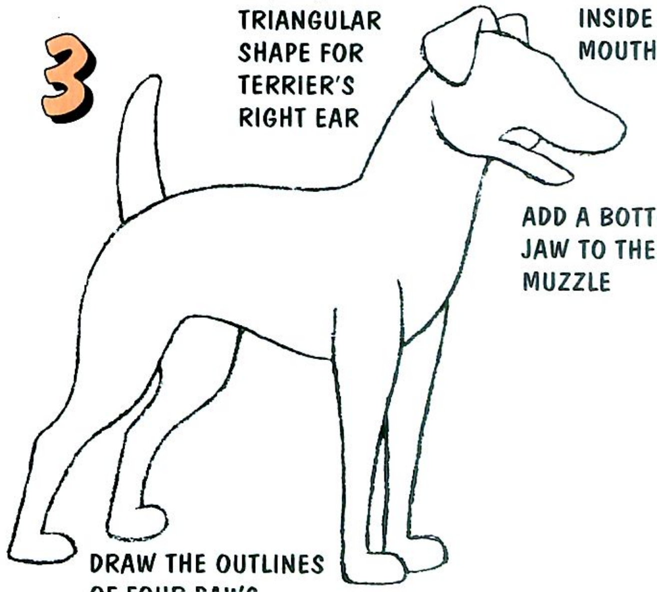
1


DRAW A LINE FOR THE TAIL
DRAW A CIRCLE FOR THE HEAD
DRAW A PEAR SHAPE WITH ONE STRAIGHT SIDE FOR THE BODY
JOIN THE HEAD AND BODY WITH TWO CURVED LINES
DRAW FOUR LINES FOR THE LEGS

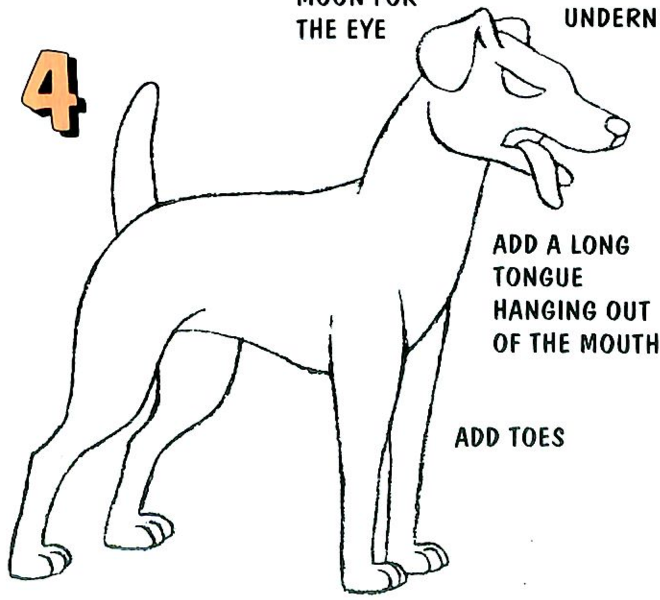
2


FINISH THE OUTLINE OF THE TAIL
GIVE TERRIER A MUZZLE
DRAW FOUR MORE LINES FOR THE LEGS

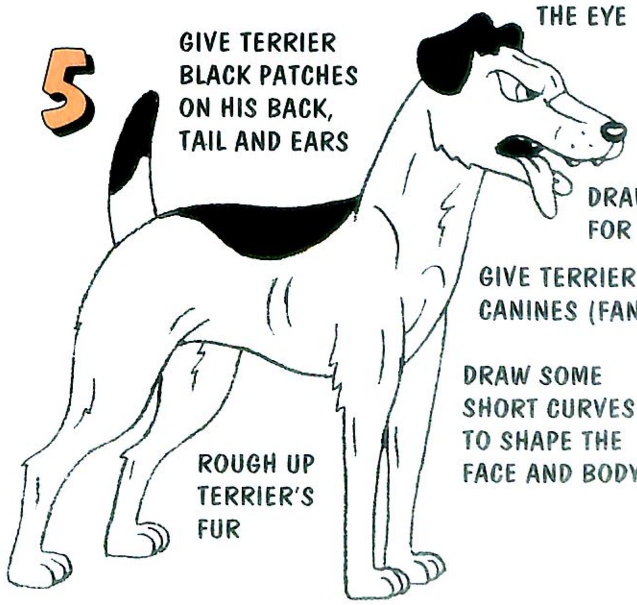
3


ADD A SHORT CURVE FOR HIS LEFT EAR
DRAW A TRIANGULAR SHAPE FOR TERRIER'S RIGHT EAR
DRAW A SHORT LINE FOR THE INSIDE OF THE MOUTH
ADD A BOTTOM JAW TO THE MUZZLE
DRAW THE OUTLINES OF FOUR PAWS

4


DRAW A HALF MOON FOR THE EYE
DRAW AN OVAL FOR THE NOSE AND A SHORT LINE UNDERNEATH
ADD A LONG TONGUE HANGING OUT OF THE MOUTH
ADD TOES

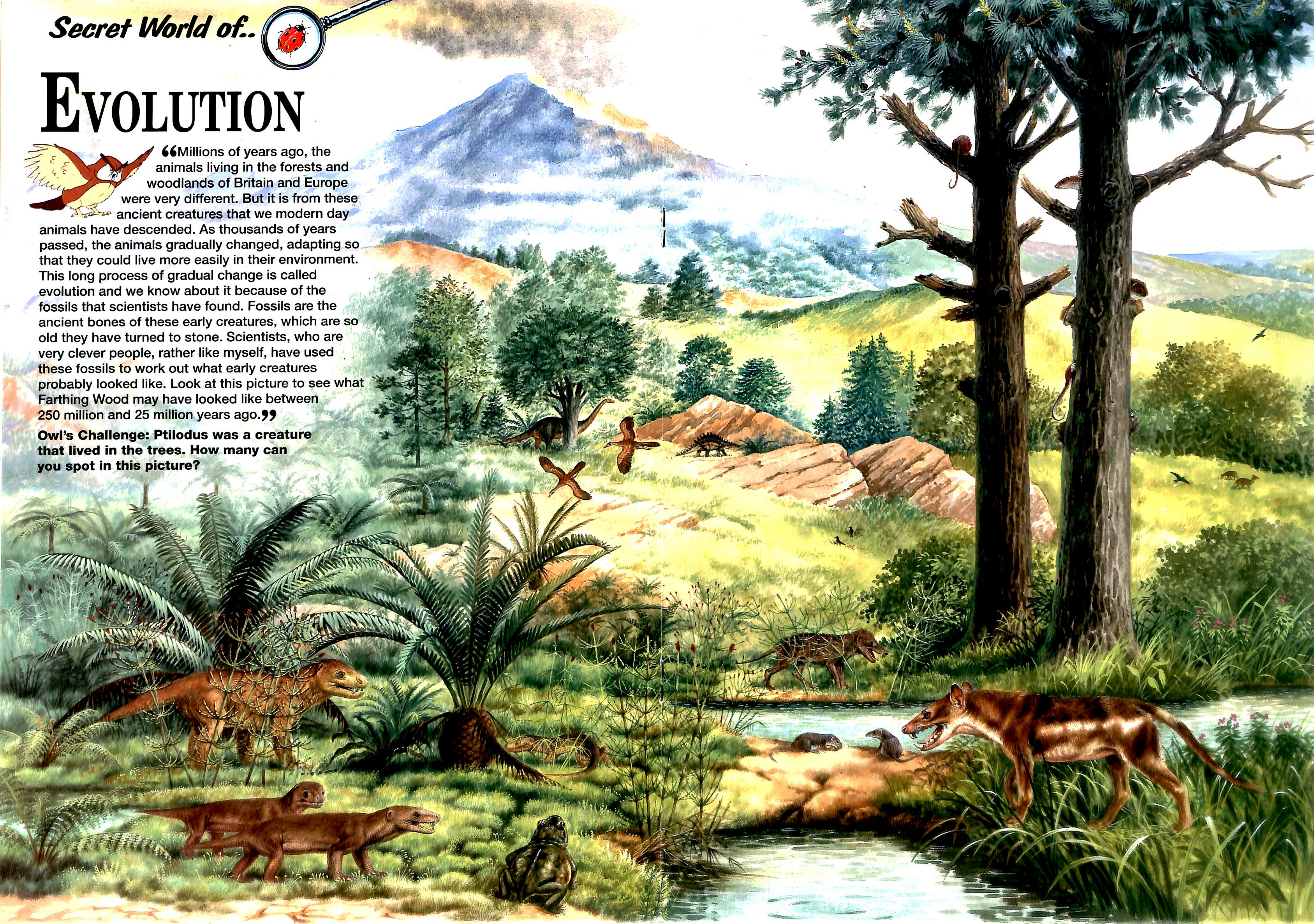
5


DRAW A PUPIL IN THE EYE
GIVE TERRIER BLACK PATCHES ON HIS BACK, TAIL AND EARS
SHADE IN THE NOSE AND THE INSIDE OF THE MOUTH
DRAW THREE DOTS FOR WHISKERS
GIVE TERRIER TWO CANINES (FANGS)
DRAW SOME SHORT CURVES TO SHAPE THE FACE AND BODY
ROUGH UP TERRIER'S FUR

! DRAW YOUR LINES LIGHTLY SO YOU CAN RUB OUT OVERLAPPING ONES

Secret World of..

EVOLUTION

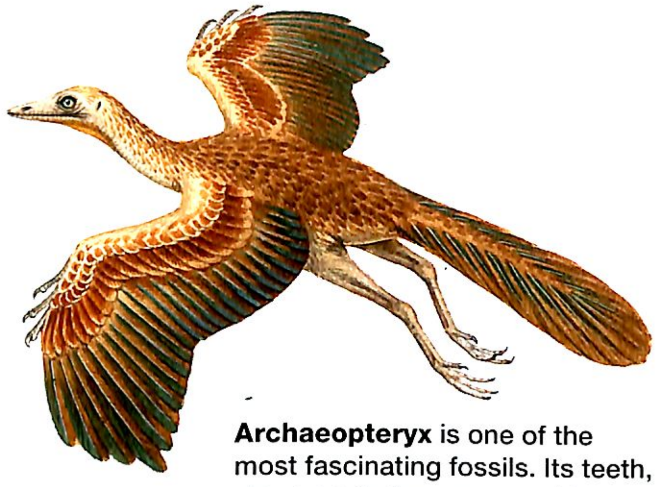


“Millions of years ago, the animals living in the forests and woodlands of Britain and Europe were very different. But it is from these ancient creatures that we modern day animals have descended. As thousands of years passed, the animals gradually changed, adapting so that they could live more easily in their environment. This long process of gradual change is called evolution and we know about it because of the fossils that scientists have found. Fossils are the ancient bones of these early creatures, which are so old they have turned to stone. Scientists, who are very clever people, rather like myself, have used these fossils to work out what early creatures probably looked like. Look at this picture to see what Farthing Wood may have looked like between 250 million and 25 million years ago.”

Owl’s Challenge: Ptilodus was a creature that lived in the trees. How many can you spot in this picture?

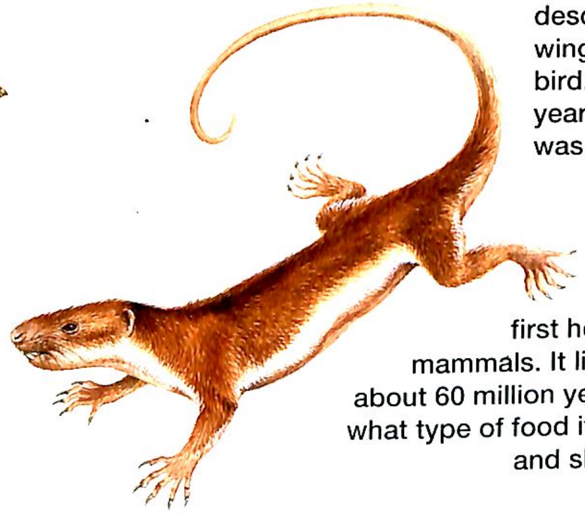
If you look carefully you should be able to spot four Ptiloduses climbing the tall conifer trees.

Deinogalerix was a giant hedgehog, four times the size of a modern hedgehog. It lived about 24 million years ago and was covered with long, rough hair, rather than spines. It had lots of sharp teeth, so it probably ate small lizards and mammals.

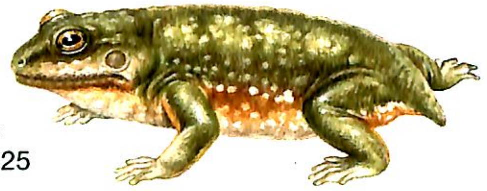


Archaeopteryx is one of the most fascinating fossils. Its teeth, claws on its forearms, and long bony tail show that it is descended from a reptile. But the wings and feathers make it a bird. It lived about 200 million years ago and scientists think it was possibly the first bird.

Cynognanthus lived about 240 million years ago. Although it was a reptile, it had lots of mammal-like features, such as whiskers on its snout and hair covering its body. It probably looked a bit like a big dog, with a rather large head and a short tail. It may have fed like a badger, eating plants and small animals.



Ptilodus was one of the first herbivorous, or plant-eating, mammals. It lived in trees, like a squirrel, about 60 million years ago. Scientists can tell what type of food it ate by the fossilized teeth and skulls that have been found.



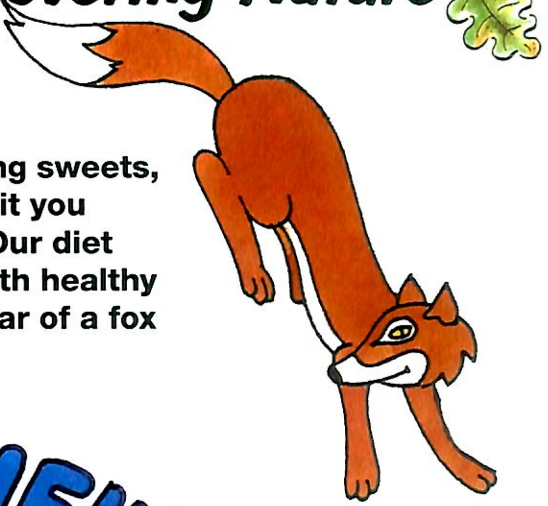
Triadobatrachus was a very ancient frog, living about 225 million years ago. Triadobatrachus was about four times the size of a modern frog. It also had a longer spine and a little tail.

Oligokyphus was a reptile that lived by rivers about 170 million years ago, rather like a present day Water vole. It was able to twist its back, so it may have curled up to keep warm, or even suckled its young like a mammal.

Dimylus was about the size of a mole. Its teeth were very strong and deep-rooted, with extra thick enamel, so it may have fed on shellfish, like the Sea otter of today. It lived about 20 million years ago.

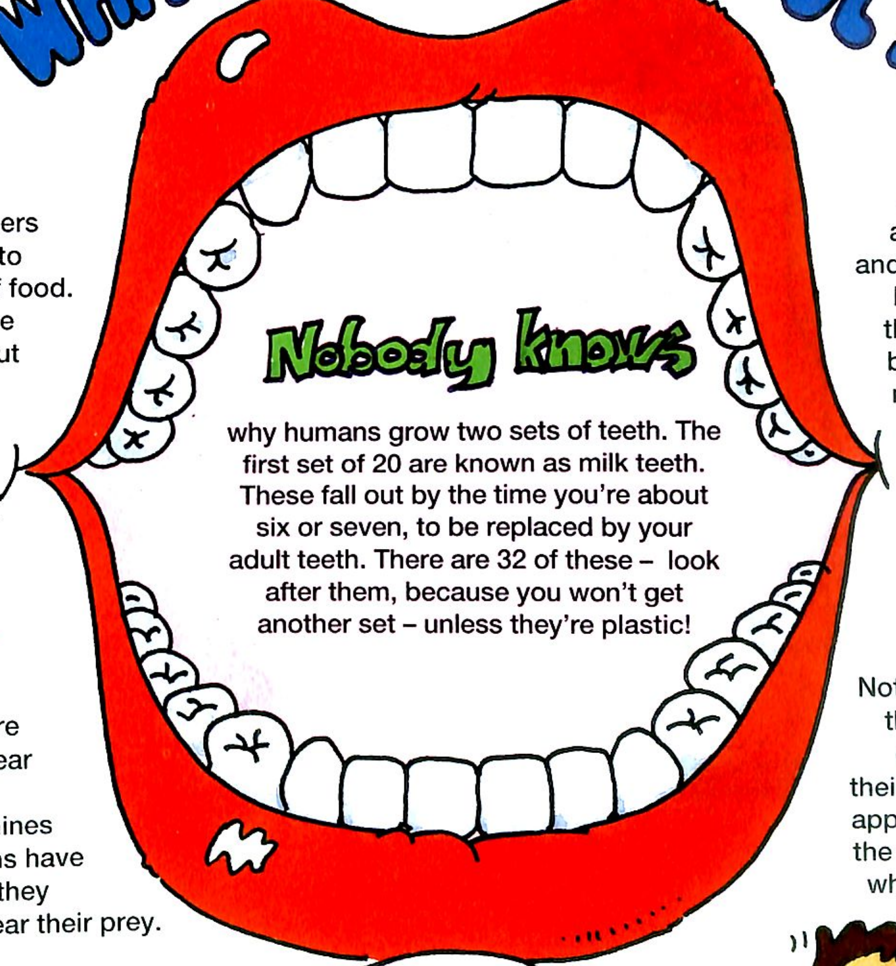
Ferns are some of the most ancient plants of all. In fact, 300 million years ago most plants were fern-like. Today, ferns grow in all parts of the world.

TALKING TEETH



Animals have different kinds of teeth depending on the food they eat. Teeth have evolved (changed) over thousands of years to cope with chewing up meat, slicing off blades of grass or gnawing on bones. Teeth are very important – as I'm always telling my cubs. Luckily, I don't have to stop them eating sweets, which is a peculiar habit you human children have. Our diet certainly keeps our teeth healthy – when did you ever hear of a fox with false teeth?

WHAT A MOUTHFUL!



Nobody knows

why humans grow two sets of teeth. The first set of 20 are known as milk teeth. These fall out by the time you're about six or seven, to be replaced by your adult teeth. There are 32 of these – look after them, because you won't get another set – unless they're plastic!

INCISORS

These eight choppers have sharp edges to chop off chunks of food. Rats and mice have these teeth, too, but theirs never stop growing. Instead, they are ground down by almost non-stop gnawing.

CANINES

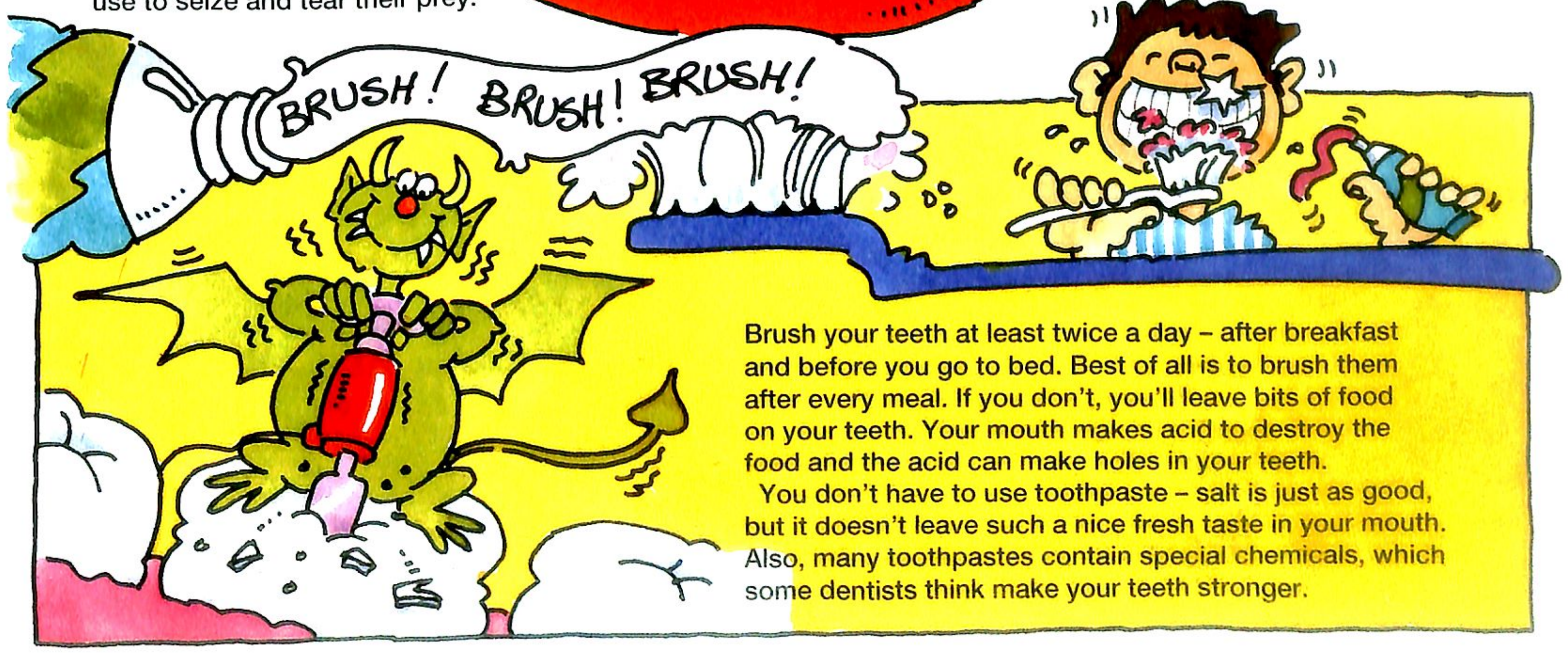
These four teeth are your fangs! They tear up food. Humans don't use their canines that much, but lions have huge ones, which they use to seize and tear their prey.

MOLARS

At the back of your mouth are the grinders. Feel them and you'll notice that they are bumpy on top. This means that food can be ground up between the bumps. It also means that these teeth are especially tricky to clean, because food gets stuck between the bumps.

WISDOM TEETH

Not everyone has these – and they don't mean that you're especially brainy! They got their name because they don't appear until quite a while after the rest of your teeth – usually when you are about 17 or so.


BRUSH! BRUSH! BRUSH!

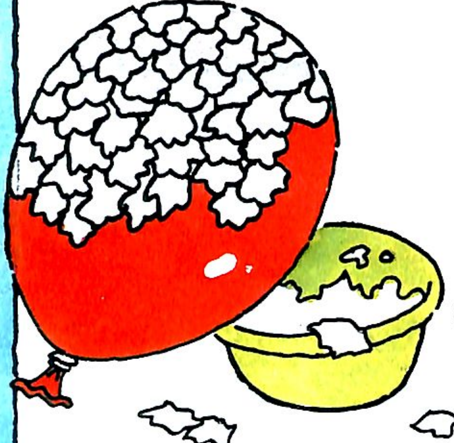
Brush your teeth at least twice a day – after breakfast and before you go to bed. Best of all is to brush them after every meal. If you don't, you'll leave bits of food on your teeth. Your mouth makes acid to destroy the food and the acid can make holes in your teeth.

You don't have to use toothpaste – salt is just as good, but it doesn't leave such a nice fresh taste in your mouth. Also, many toothpastes contain special chemicals, which some dentists think make your teeth stronger.

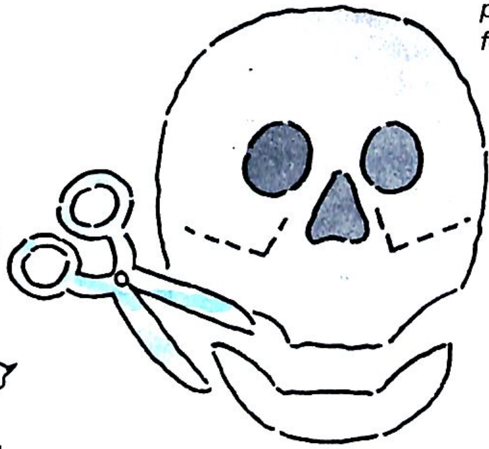
TOOTHY TIM

Make a human skull, complete with teeth.

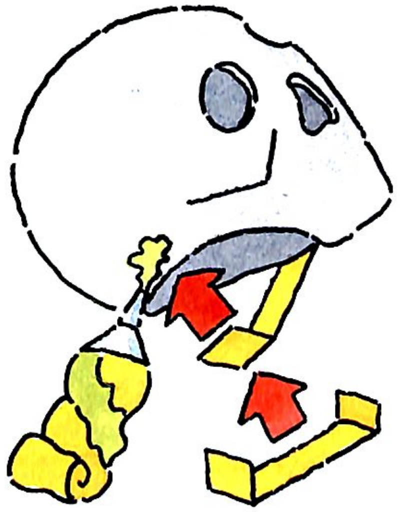
You will need:
blown-up balloon, newspaper, wallpaper paste, white card, scissors, paint, black felt tip, four paper fasteners.



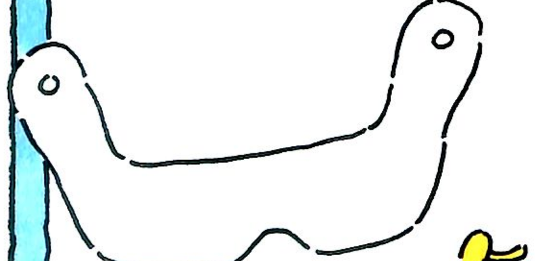
1 Cover a blown-up balloon with papier mache (see Puzzle It Out, issue 43). You'll need about four layers. Keep it as smooth as possible. Leave it to dry, then let down the balloon inside and throw it away.



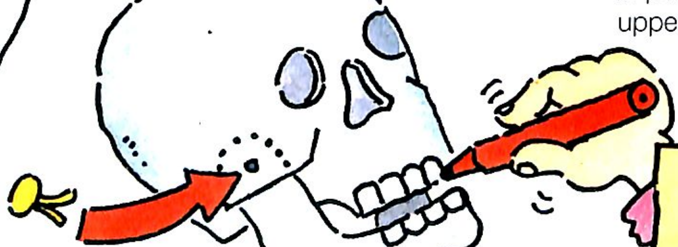
2 Make a slit each side of the nose. Cut away the bottom of the skull to show the edge of the upper jaw. Cut two holes for the eyes and one for the nose.



3 Cut a strip of card and glue it in place so that it squashes the upper jaw in a bit.



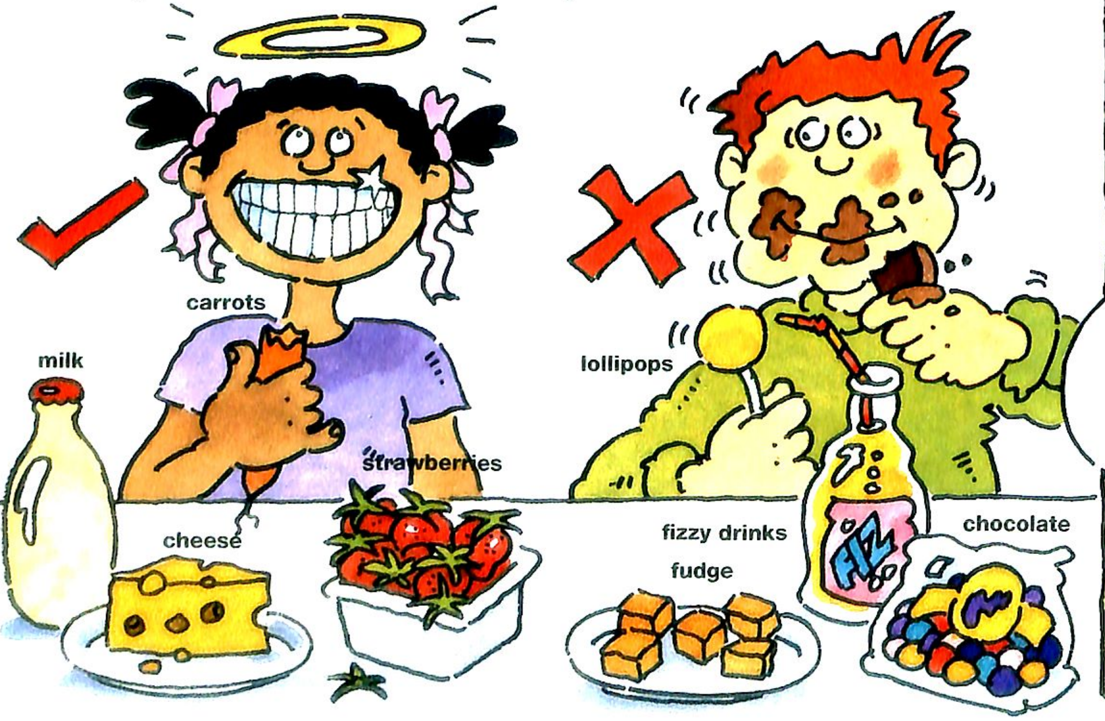
4 Cut a lower jaw out of white card. Cut it quite big and then trim it to fit your skull. Fix it, as shown, to the upper jaw, using paper fasteners so that it can move.



5 Paint the whole skull white (or off-white for a more bony look!). Draw on the outline of Tim's teeth with a black felt tip.

GOOD AND BAD

Do you know what foods are best for your teeth?



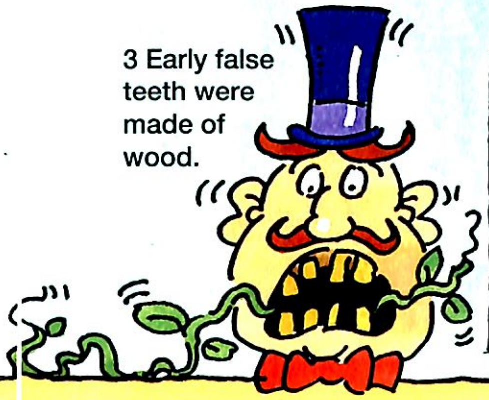
THE TOOTH OF THE MATTER

Do our toothsome quiz to find out how much you know about the truth behind your teeth. Are the following statements true or false?

1 The Great White shark has the strongest bite in the world.

2 Half a tonne of decayed teeth is pulled out of the mouths of children in England and Wales every year.

3 Early false teeth were made of wood.



ANSWERS

1 True – the force as it bites down is like the weight of four elephants per tooth.

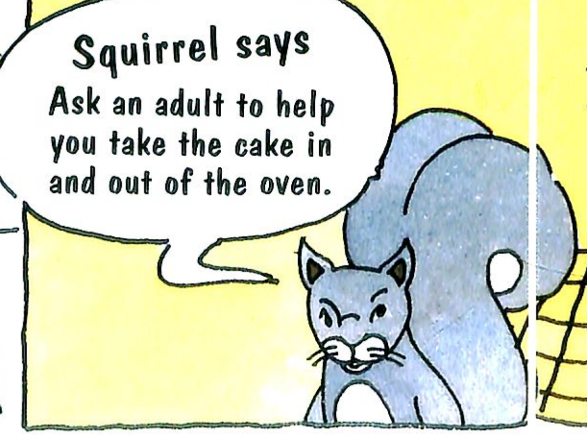
2 False – it's actually four tonnes! Make sure yours don't join the pile.

3 True – they were made of bone and ivory as well.

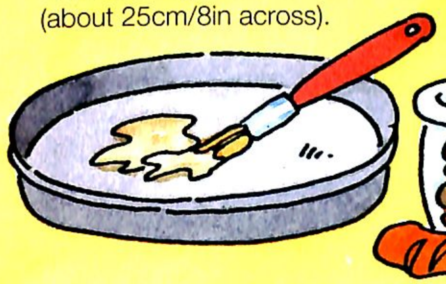
CARROT CAKE

This delicious cake is full of things that are good for you. It doesn't have much sugar in it, so it's not too bad for your teeth, either.

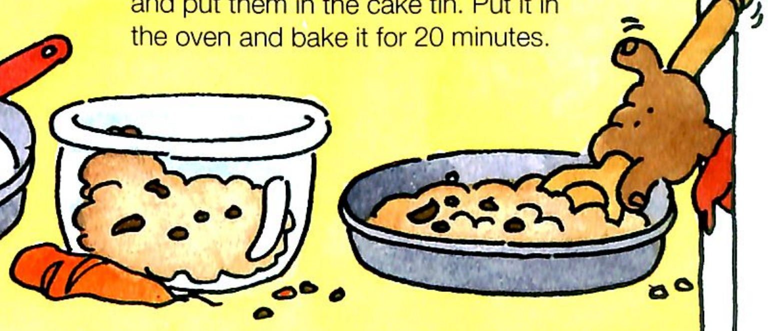
You will need: *100g wholemeal flour, 100g chopped walnuts, 100g raisins, 150g chopped cooking apples, 50g grated carrots, 2tbsp vegetable oil, 1tbsp brewer's yeast powder, 2tbsp honey (plus a little for melting), ½tbsp mixed spice, pinch of sea salt, cake tin, saucepan, wire rack.*


Squirrel says
Ask an adult to help you take the cake in and out of the oven.

1 Preheat the oven to 180°C/350°C/Gas Mark 4. Grease a large cake tin (about 25cm/8in across).

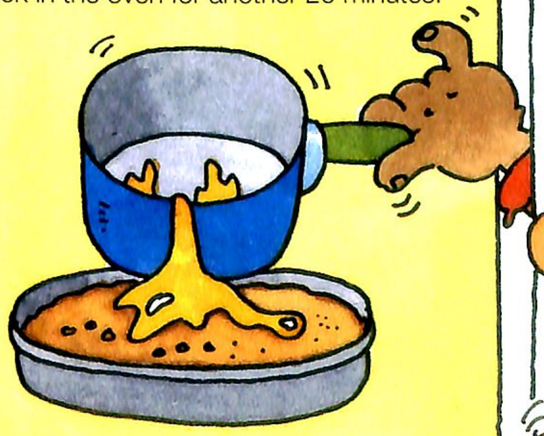


2 Mix all the ingredients together and put them in the cake tin. Put it in the oven and bake it for 20 minutes.



3 While the cake is cooking, melt a few tablespoons of honey in a saucepan over a gentle heat.

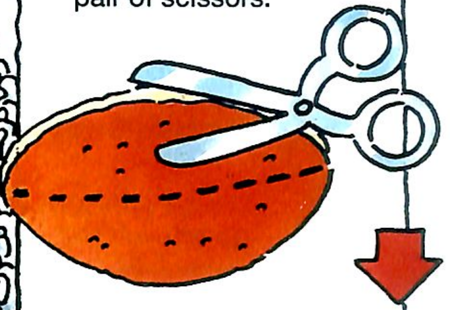
4 When the 20 minutes is up, pour the melted honey over the cake mixture. Put it back in the oven for another 20 minutes.



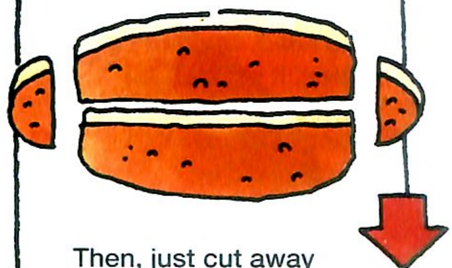
5 Let the cake cool for five minutes, then turn it out on to a wire cake rack.

NASTY GNASHERS

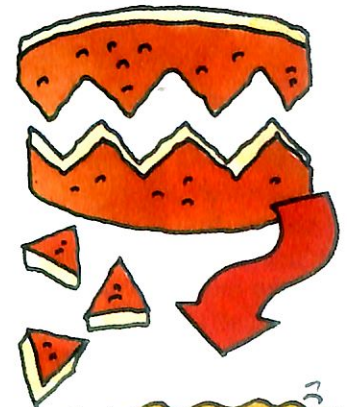
All you need for some truly terrible-looking teeth is a large segment of orange peel and a pair of scissors.



Cut the orange peel so that you've got two slightly curved strips.



Then, just cut away until you've got a set of false teeth you like. (You might find it easier to draw some guidelines on with a Biro before you start cutting.)



LEAPERS

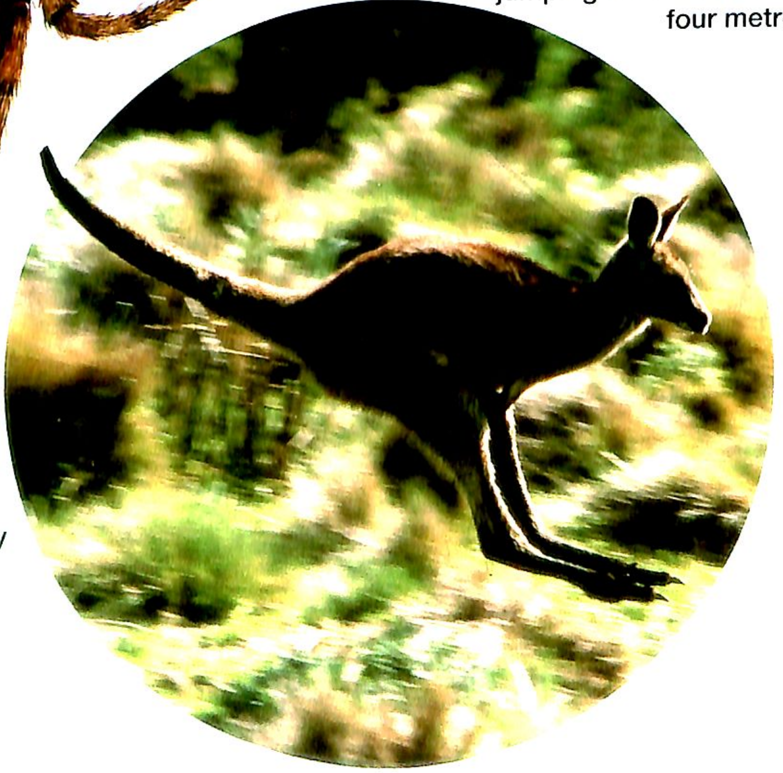
Animals move in lots of different ways, but there is nothing more spectacular than seeing an animal take a flying leap. Not all animals can do this, as their bodies must be specially adapted. Of those that can, some have strong muscular legs, others have more unusual body mechanisms.

Q: Which creature can jump over 100 times its own height?

A: A flea.

LONG LEAPER ▼

There's no chance of hiding from this crafty mover, as it has eight eyes placed all round its head. Once the Jumping spider spots its prey, it stalks it like a cat and then pounces, killing it with a bite from its poisonous fangs. The spider's short legs are so strong, it can leap up to 40 times its body length.



LEAPS AND BOUNDS ▶

A Kangaroo really is built for bouncing. In one leap it can cover four times its body length, for some this may be as much as eight metres. It leaps using its powerful hind legs and enormous tail to balance when in mid-air.

▲ MOUNTAINEERING MADNESS

Chamois are daring, agile creatures, which live high up in steep mountain areas. They are famous for their incredible balance and breath-taking leaps, easily jumping across fissures, or cracks in the rock, over four metres wide and six metres high.

IT'S Amazing!

KING OF THE SWINGERS

Squirrel monkeys travel through the treetops, hurling themselves from tree to tree and leaping straight up into the air to catch insects. The monkey may leap as far as 60 metres to catch a flying insect.

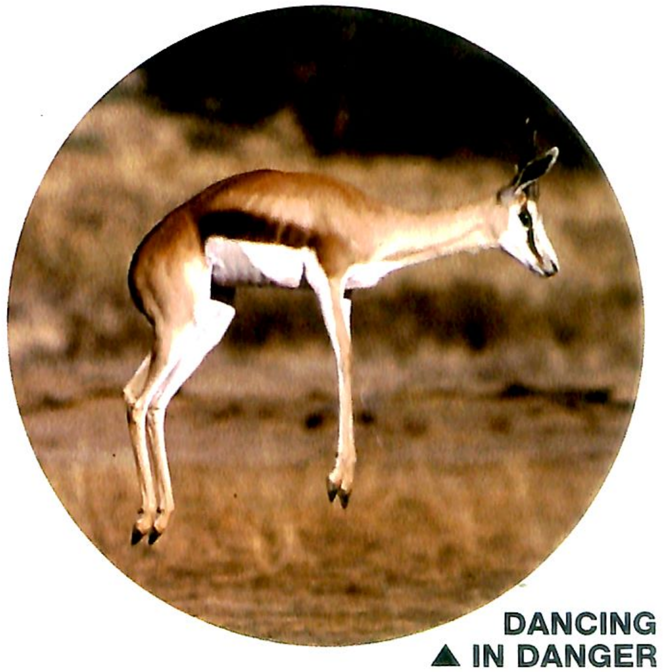
SAND HOPPER ▶

The Sidewinder snake can slide forwards like other snakes, but it chooses to move from side to side in a series of little leaps. This is much more effective for crossing the hot shifting sands of its desert home.

MARCH MADNESS ▼

You may have heard the saying, 'Mad as a March hare'. It comes from the strange behaviour of male hares in spring. This is when you might catch sight of Hare doing an acrobatic dance, leaping and bounding. It's all done to impress Mrs Hare at mating time, but it looks more like Hare has lost his marbles!

Leaping is lovely!



DANCING ▲ IN DANGER

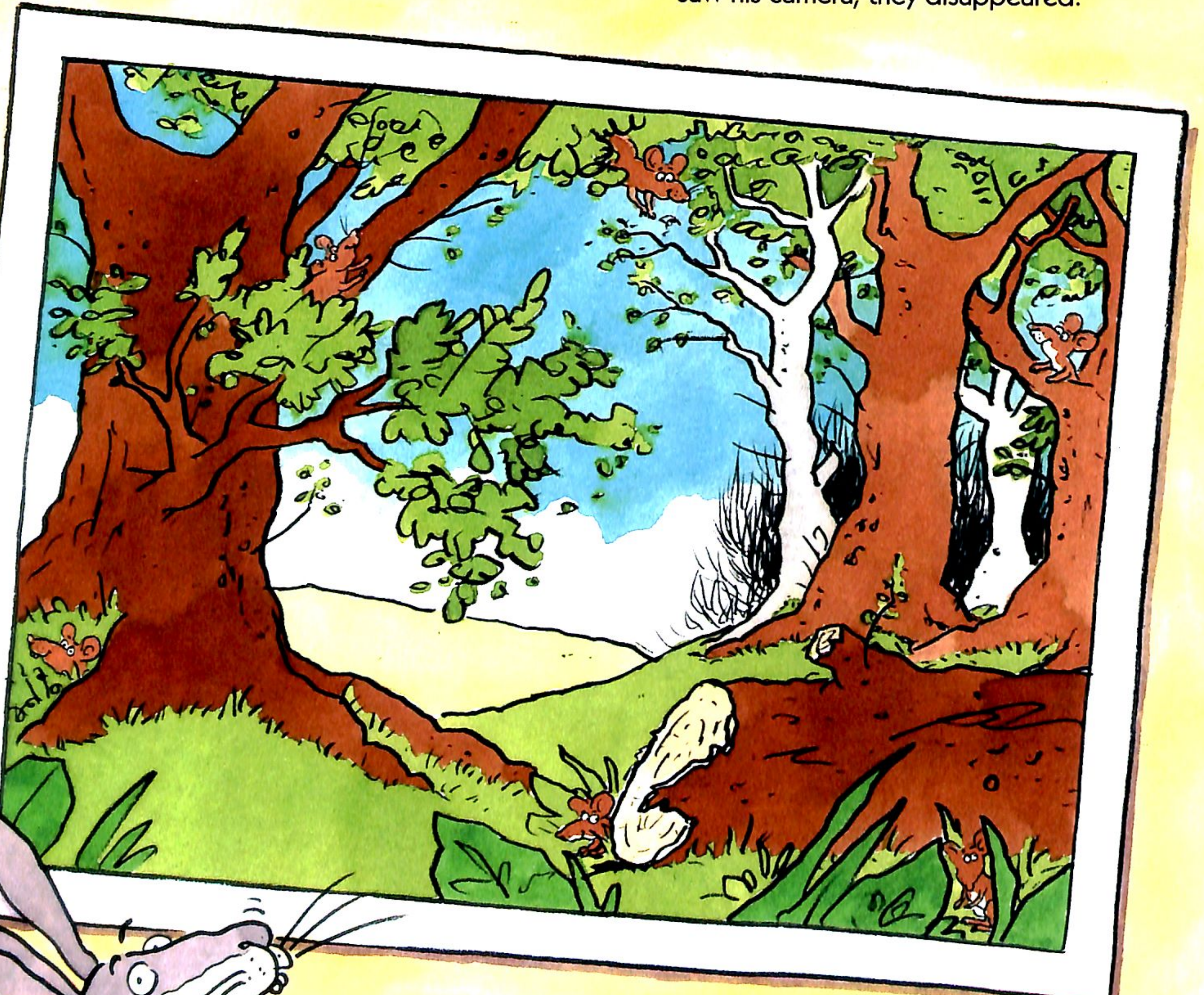
Springboks get their name from the unusual stiff-legged bouncing, called 'pronking', which they perform when fleeing from danger. They leap three metres into the air, repeating this five or six times before racing off. Since they travel in large herds and all do this at once, this can be a very strange sight.

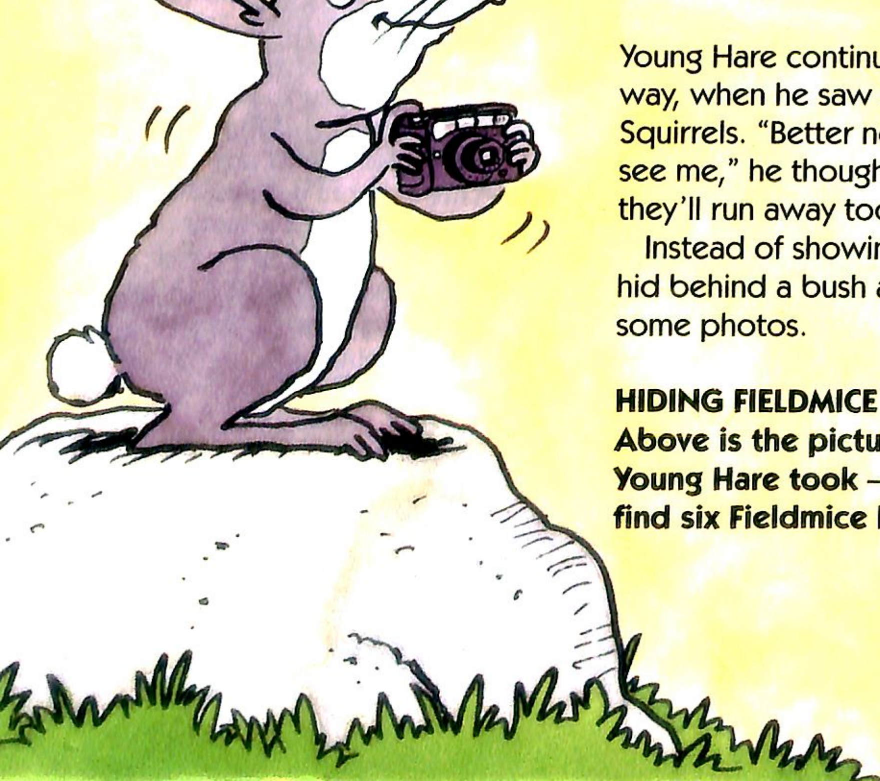
What's green and jumps about?

A spring cabbage.

CAMERA SHY

Young Hare had decided to go for a walk, taking his camera with him. All at once, he came across a group of Fieldmice playing, but as soon as they saw his camera, they disappeared.





Young Hare continued on his way, when he saw some Squirrels. "Better not let them see me," he thought, "otherwise they'll run away too."

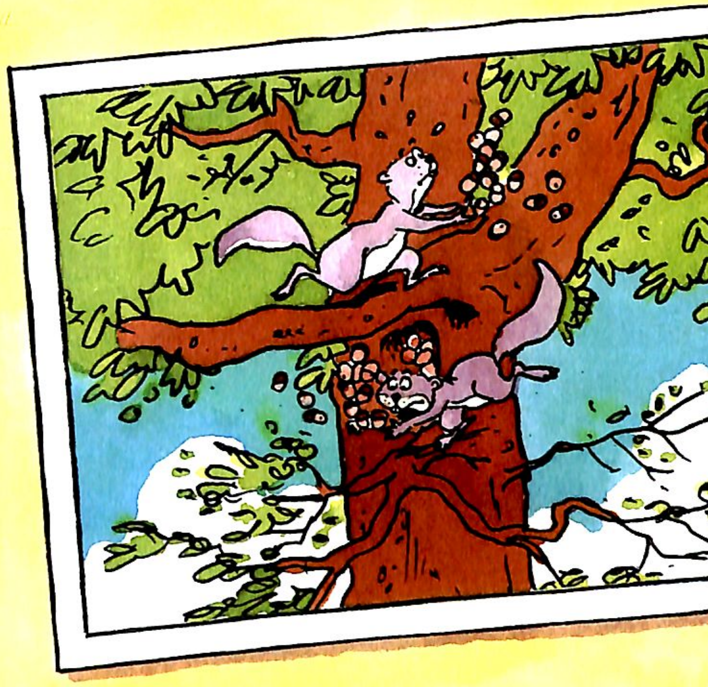
Instead of showing himself, he hid behind a bush and took some photos.

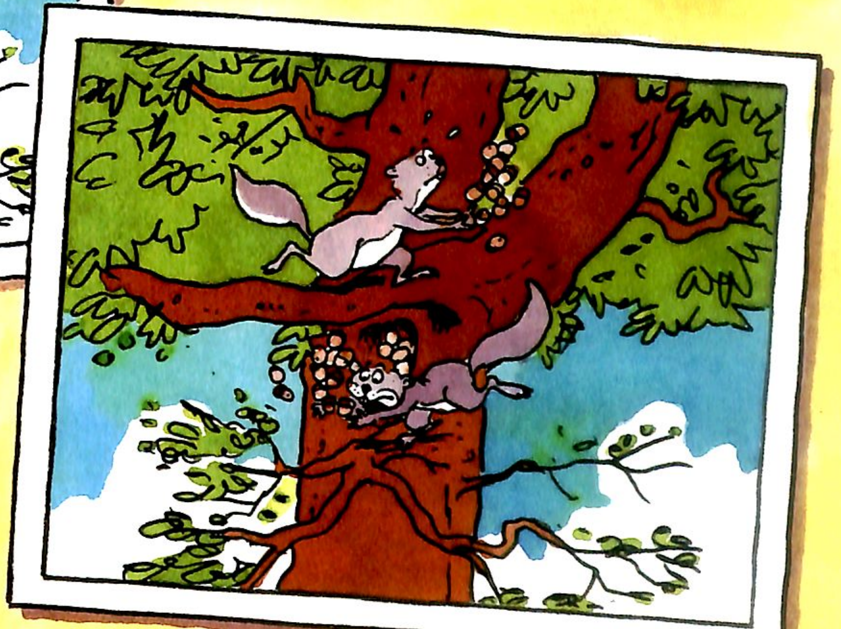
HIDING FIELDMICE
Above is the picture that Young Hare took – can you find six Fieldmice hiding in it?

MATCH THE PRINT
In a negative, everything that is dark appears light, and everything that is light appears dark. Remembering this, can you see which print of the heron matches the negative exactly?

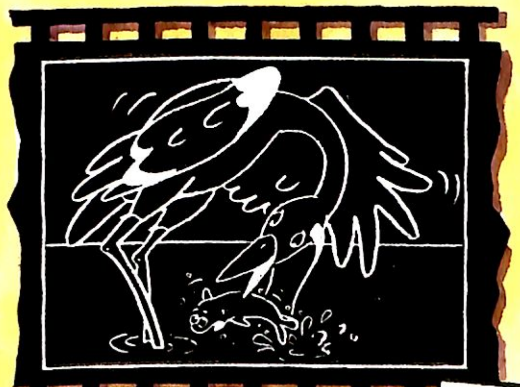
Finally, he plucked up courage and came out of his hiding place. As soon as the Squirrels saw the camera, they rushed away.

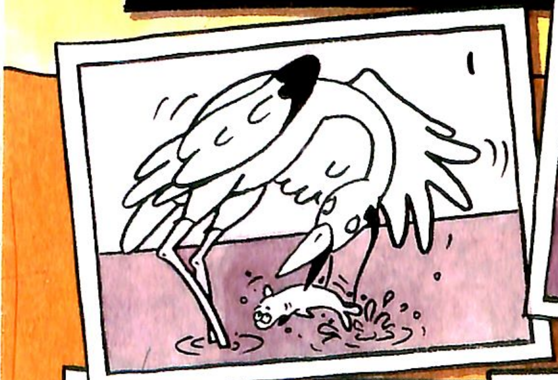
Young Hare strolled by the river. Hidden in the undergrowth, he took pictures of the herons fishing, the Edible frogs and Toad swimming, Voles playing chase, and Kestrel and Owl on a branch together, chatting.





SPOT THE DIFFERENCE
Here are two similar photographs taken by Young Hare. Can you see eight differences between them?

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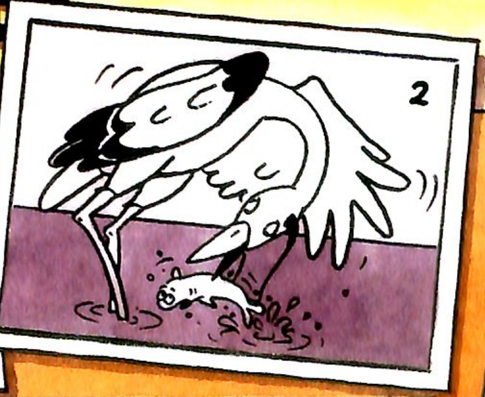
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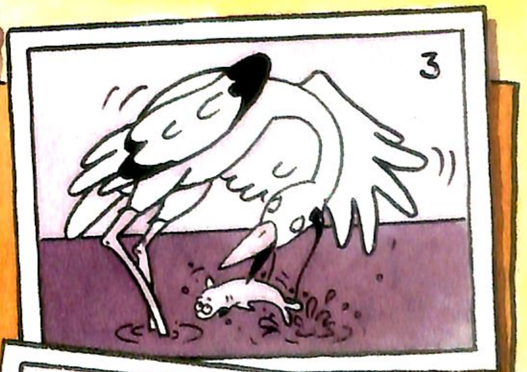
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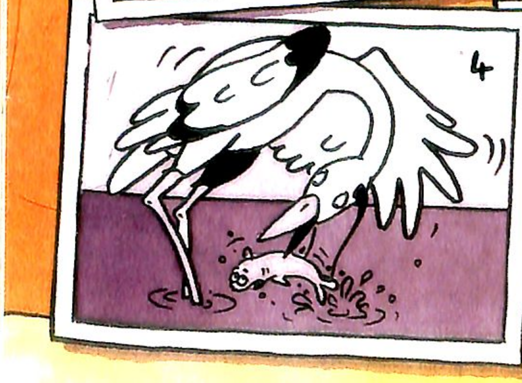
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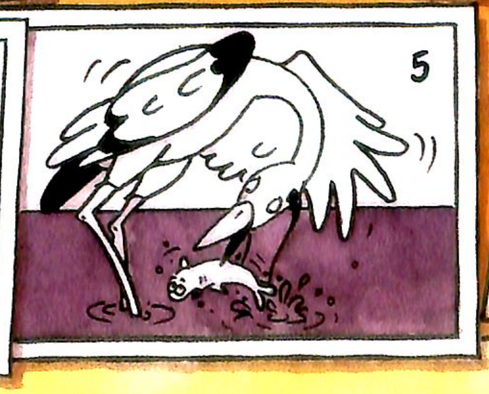
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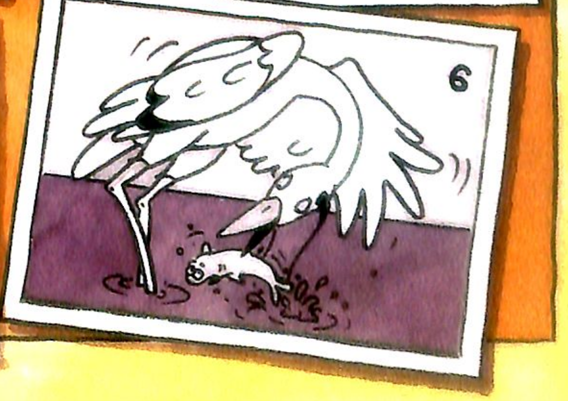
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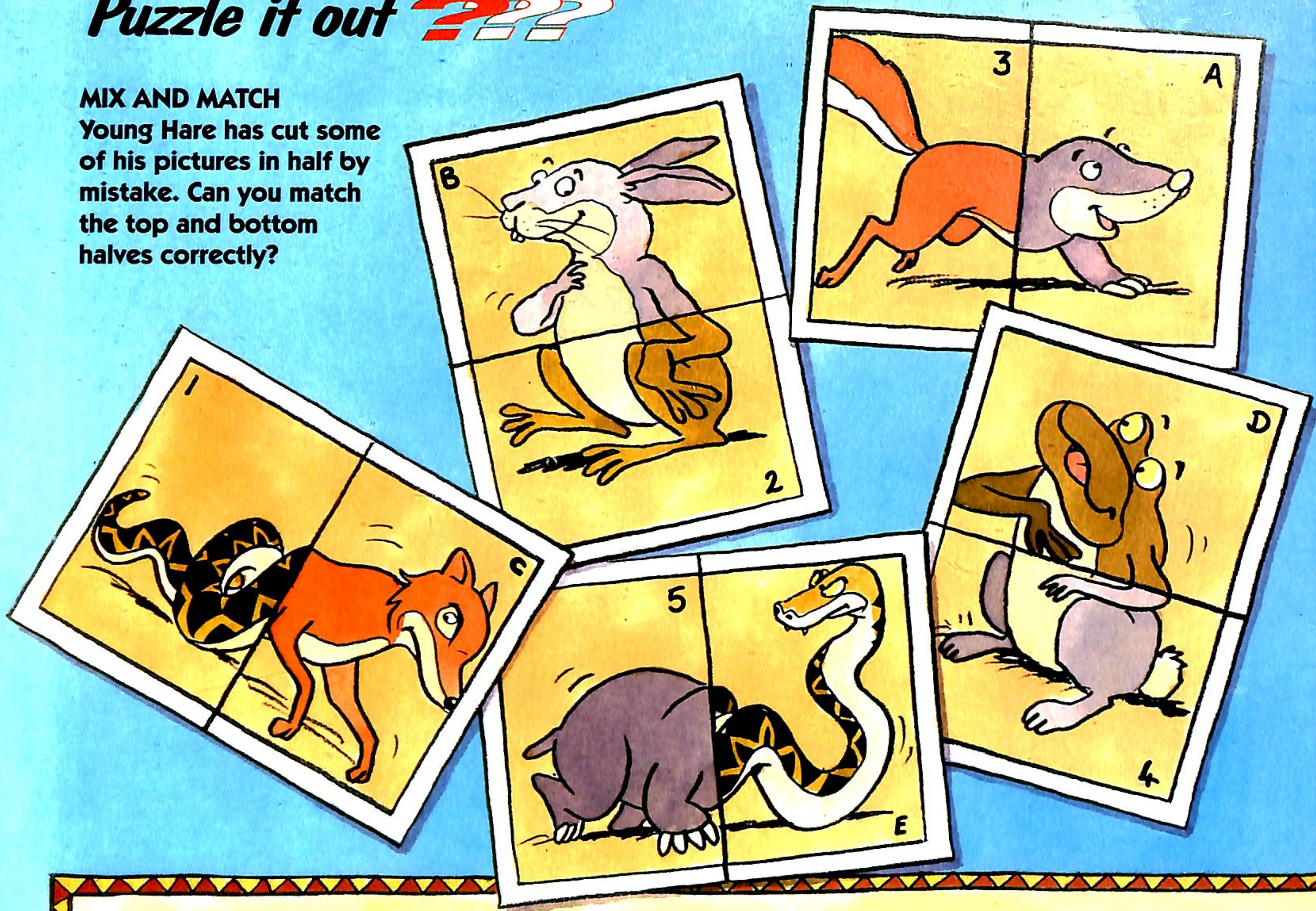
Puzzle it out ???

MIX AND MATCH

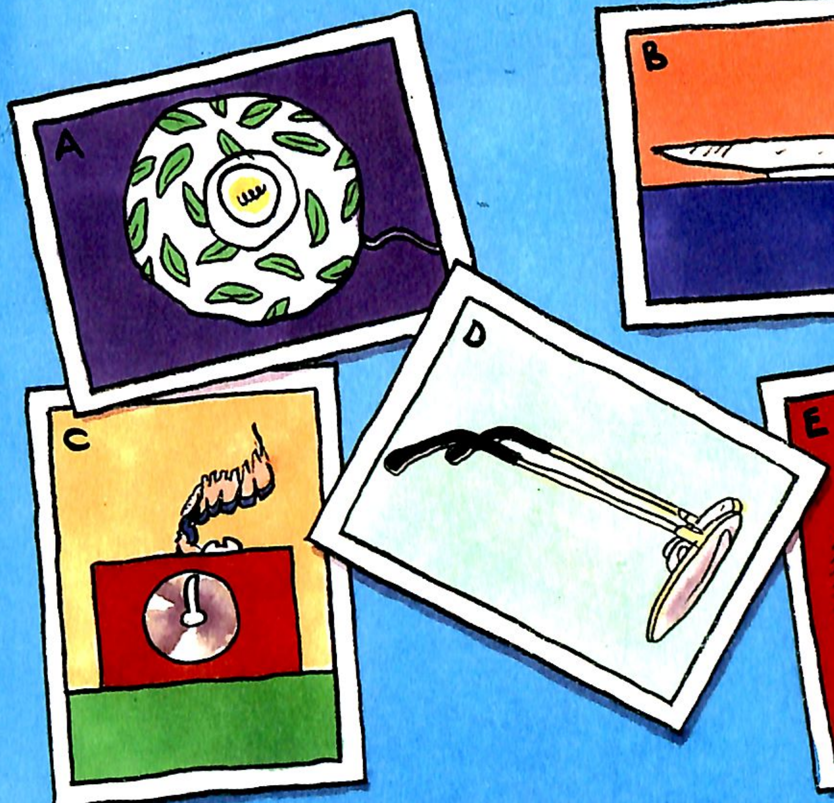
Young Hare has cut some of his pictures in half by mistake. Can you match the top and bottom halves correctly?



"That's enough!" said Young Hare to himself. "It's quite tiring taking photos of camera-shy creatures. I think I'll go home and take photos of objects instead. After all, they can't run away."

WHAT ARE THEY?

Do you recognize these everyday objects?



ANSWERS

MATCH THE PRINT 3 matches the negative.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE The eight differences are: leaf (top right), top Squirrel's tail, top Squirrel's nuts, bottom Squirrel's nuts, branch (bottom left), branch (middle right), leaf (middle right), tree trunk (bottom middle).

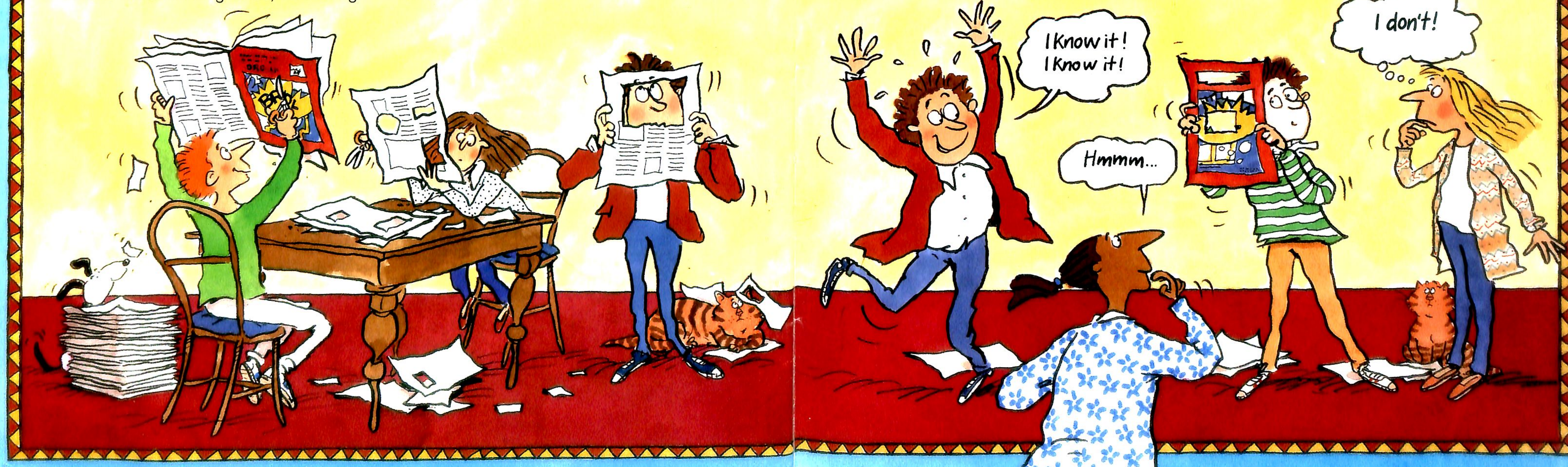
MIX AND MATCH 1E, 2D, 3C, 4B, 5A.

WHAT ARE THEY? A lampshade, B saucer, C pencil sharpener, D glasses, E teacup.

GUESS THE AD!

This is a great game to play with two or three friends. All of you can have fun cutting loads of adverts out of old magazines, but leaving out the vital ingredient – the product they're advertising! Each player cuts out the same number of adverts.

Decide who starts the game. The starter holds up one of her adverts and the others try to guess what it's advertising. The first person to guess keeps the advert and holds up one of her own. At the end of the game, the players count up the adverts they've guessed and the one with the most is the winner.


I know it! I know it!
Hmmm...
I don't!

Colour it in

FRIGHT NIGHT!